

MINUTES OF MEETING WITH THE GREEN ACRES WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

Location Green Acres Water Control Building

Date Wednesday, February 18, 2004

Attendees Sheila McCormick, Mike McCormick, Linda Brandon, Breck McCormick & Errol Covington; Board members not present are Carla Empey and Ed Bond

The requirement for a Bingham County Wildland Urban Interface Fire Plan, was presented to the Board by Errol Covington, the Emergency Management Coordinator. Those in attendance were in agreement that actions needed to be taken to prevent or reduce the possibility of wildland fires in the neighborhood.

During the meeting, members of the board explained some of the mitigating actions already taken. A 54,000 gallon storage tank has been installed on the hillside above the subdivision which has significantly improved the water pressure. Thousands of feet of 8 inch waterlines have been installed to replace the former lines. Hydrants have been installed every 500 feet throughout the community.

They have two wells, one of which has a 150 hp. pump, and the other is a 75 hp. pump. Both pumps are powered with natural gas. They also have a 25 hp. electrical pump for backup.

There are 82 homes with an estimated population of 330. There are several yards which have been let go into weedy patches. Other yards have a large accumulation of old vehicles and other discarded items, all of which contribute to the fire danger.

Various suggestions were made with the goal of increasing safety to the community from wildfires:

1. Sections of fire hoses with attachments installed, could be placed strategically in the community. These could be quickly accessed and connected to hydrants to reach out to the perimeters of the community.
2. A 150, to 200 foot fire lane could be created by disking, mowing, or grazing. One of the problems to be considered would be that the owner of the subject property currently has placed the ground in the CRP set aside program.
3. The land adjacent to the community could be tilled up and fire-resistant grasses and plants could be sowed.
4. A 4-wheel drive pumper truck housed at the well house could be a good first-response vehicle. This would give the residents a tool to fight fires until the Shelley/Firth fire departments could respond.

5. A fire-safe training program should be conducted to reach out to all residents and educate them to techniques of making their homes and yards more fire resistant
6. The addressing system for the community needs to be reinstated. At present, very few of the residents have their street numbers posted. This makes it very difficult for fire or ambulance drivers to locate a residence.

It was suggested that another meeting on the same subject should be held with as many of the community residents participating as possible. It was agreed that such a meeting would be planned for later in the spring.